

12 one of the at least one other automatic segmentation parameter value to be altered correspond to a segmentation class in a second subset of the set of segmentation classes.

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending. By this Amendment, the Title is amended to reflect the invention and claims 1 and 6 are amended. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. The Title Satisfies All Formal Requirements

This Title is objected to as not indicative of the invention. Accordingly, the Title is amended. Withdrawal of the objection to the Title is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,339,172 to Robinson. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Robinson does not teach, disclosure or suggest determining if the selected segmentation mode is an automatic mode and determining, if the selected segmentation mode is the automatic mode, whether a user wishes to change at least one automatic segmentation parameter of the selected mode, as claimed in claim 1.

Instead, Robinson teaches, as shown in Figure 5, once the operator selects the segmentor icon, he is presented with the various options in step 186. Upon choosing one of the modes in step 190, appropriate parameters for obtaining the mapping function, stored in one of the look-up tables are downloaded to the segmentation control 180. As image data is transmitted to the segmentor 100, classifications are made in accordance with the downloaded parameters of segmentation control 180. To verify the quality of the image processing, proofs can be made and if print quality is acceptable, then the process is ended; otherwise, a new mode is chosen and the process is repeated.

Accordingly, there is no teaching or even suggestion in Robinson for changing at least one automated segmentation parameter of the selected mode. That is, the appropriate parameters are stored in the look-up tables and downloaded to the segmentation control. However, the user cannot change these parameters. This procedure allows the user to have the flexibility to change the parameters for certain types of segments and this will allow the image to be processed with the user-specified setting.

Therefore, Applicants submit for at least the reasons discussed above, claim 1 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 2-5, which depend from claim 1, are likewise distinguishable over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed above as well as for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Appendix

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<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>

APPENDIX

Changes to Title:

The following is a marked-up version of the amended title:

DATA PROCESSING METHODS AND DEVICES FOR SEGMENTATION OF AN
IMAGE

Changes to Claims:

The following is a marked-up version of the amended claim(s):

1. (Amended) A method for segmenting an image comprising:
determining a selected segmentation mode to be used when segmenting the
image;
determining if the selected segmentation mode is an automatic mode;
determining, if the selected segmentation mode is the automatic mode,
whether a user wishes to change at least one automatic segmentation parameter of the
selected mode;
inputting a new value for each at least one automatic segmentation parameter
to be changed, if the user wishes to change at least one automatic segmentation parameter;
and
segmenting the image using the automatic segmentation parameter values,
including any new automatic segmentation parameter values.
6. (Amended) A method for segmenting an image comprising:
determining a selected segmentation mode to be used when segmenting the
image;
determining if the selected segmentation mode is an automatic mode;

determining, if the selected segmentation mode is the automatic mode,
whether a user wishes to change at least one automatic segmentation parameter of the
selected mode;

inputting a new value for each at least one automatic segmentation parameter
to be changed, if the user wishes to change at least one automatic segmentation parameter;
and

segmenting the image using the automatic segmentation parameter values,
including any new automatic segmentation parameter values;

altering, if at least one new automatic segmentation parameter value is input, at least
one other automatic segmentation parameter value~~The method of claim 2,~~

wherein each one of the at least one automatic segmentation parameter to be changed
correspond to a segmentation class in a first subset of a set of segmentation classes and each
one of the at least one other automatic segmentation parameter value to be altered correspond
to a segmentation class in a second subset of the set of segmentation classes.